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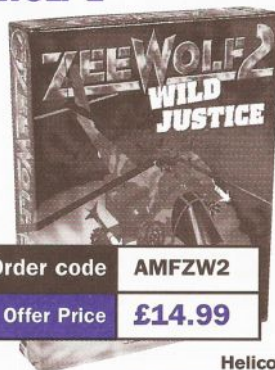
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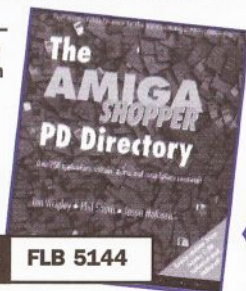| Order code | AMFZW2 |
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*The **essential** magazine for Amiga enthusiasts*

# AMIGA SHOPPER

## Subscription Letter

Issue **69** December 1996

So there has finally been a little advancement on the Amiga front with VIScorp showing off what it hopes to be a prototype casing for a new A4000. It's not exactly stunning news, but at least it shows they realise that any new Amiga has to be pretty powerful.

This month sees the release of Art Effect and you can read the first and most comprehensive review in this month's issue. What became apparent when using it was that software for the Amiga nowadays lags behind other platforms only because of the level that programmers have to write to. While it is impressive to see any decent serious software running on a 2Mb machine, it would be better to see a full application that requires 6Mb RAM just to run.

I'm not trying to encourage sloppy programming but we need a program that leaps the Amiga back ahead of the competition showing off features that can't be done on a PC or Mac. The problem is that there aren't enough high spec Amiga owners out there. People see upgrading to an 030 as a big leap. Two or three years ago, it was. Now, however, Pentium processors are ten a penny (well, almost) and everyone can afford some real power. For the Amiga to compete it needs to be a powerful platform and that means it's users digging deep and paying for the processing power that will encourage programmers to write powerful programs for it.

Elsewhere there have been some important new releases, including a new version of Directory Opus – for which we have a companion disk this month on the main Coverdisk. Here in subscribers' land, we have a set of excellent programs and utilities too. Turn the page to check them out.

*David Taylor*
David Taylor
Deputy Editor

# Subscribers' disk

**David Taylor** *introduces another jam packed Subscribers' disk with some excellent new programs for everybody.*

This month saw a resurgence of uploads to Aminet and made selecting the cream of the crop more difficult than usual. We've sifted through them though and picked a real set of gems for you this month. There's even the HDSleep program that so many of you have requested which allows you to power down your drive when your machine is dormant. Make sure you read all the instructions first.

## Everyday Organiser 2.10

This is an extensive update to a suite of programs that we've included before. It all centres around On-Time which is a schedule database which keeps track of events in an easy to understand way. It filters events to display them in chronological order. Individual months are displayed using separate calendar windows. The author claims to have optimised the code so that repetition of events doesn't slow down the interface, whether repeated for a week or for years!

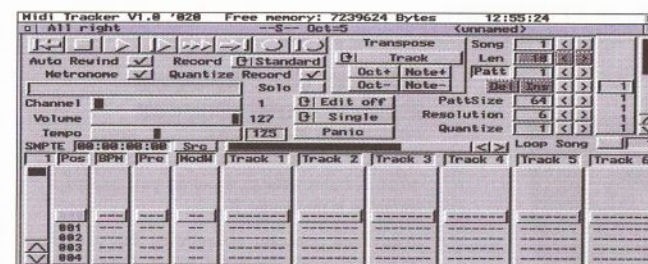It also works in conjunction with its own sister program, Alarmist, which can be used to warn you of upcoming events or to launch programs at specified times. Alarmist can deal with multiple alarms, each of which can have a separate preset pre-warn time. It can even deal with multiple events set for the same time.

Also included is Locate, an address book, and a set of small programs written by the same author – a replacement Say command, a sound datatype player and a replacement Time Preferences interface. This is a complete organisational solution and uses MUI. To find out how to make the most of all its hidden features, make sure you read the documentation thoroughly. Note that because of the size it doesn't all fit onto a single floppy. Rather than find a way around this and because you require MUI anyway, it has been set to only de-archive to a hard drive. If you don't have a hard drive, don't try and de-archive this suite.

## MIDITracker

This is a MIDI player and editor that has been designed to operate like a standard module tracker editor. If you don't use MIDI, then this editor won't work, as it doesn't make use of the Amiga's own sound channels. Unlike other trackers which have MIDI capabilities, the author has designed this one uniquely for MIDI.

It allows dynamic pattern sizes, an unlimited number of tracks per channel, support for any synth and the ability to adjust the volumes of all channels independently. It can import ProTracker modules and import/export general MIDI files. MIDITracker can handle multiple



*This tracker program has been designed for MIDI users to offer more than just the features included in standard module trackers.*

songs in memory and has a sample editor to edit sample dumps. All this and XPK compression too!

## AKCC

This package includes a whole new set of CLI commands which can be added to your path. They add a whole host of new features that can be used as standard from the CLI. They include CheckExec, DOSRequest, KAssign, KInfo, NewName, Move, Kill, Comment, Display and many more. You must make sure that you use the installer so that they are available correctly and read the documents so that you know how to use them.

## ClockFreq

Many users with accelerators have asked whether there is a way to test the clock frequency of their processor. Although you should be able to see the speed printed on the chip, some cards have been known to overclock a chip. Although this command doesn't claim to be 100% exact for the speed, it does give you a reasonably accurate reading to check whether it is as claimed.

## HDSleep

This program can be used to turn off the motor of your hard drive after you have booted up. Be warned though, it isn't a

good idea to keep powering down your drive and restarting it because it will shorten the life of the drive. But, it's also not good to have it continually spinning when you aren't making use of it for hours on end. So if you have to leave your machine on for rendering or for a BBS, then this program can be set to turn off the drive after a specified period (an hour is suggested).

The drive restarts automatically when access is required. Make sure you read the documents very carefully before using this program.
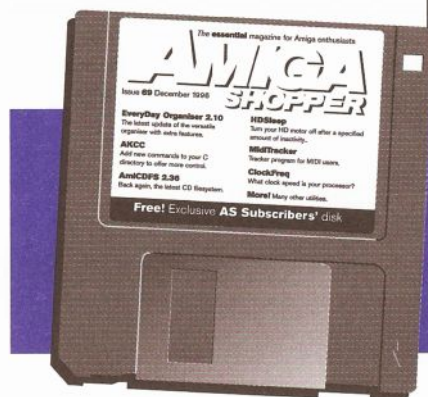
## AmiCDFS 2.36

It's back again. This is a new update for the best CD-ROM filesystem. In addition to bug fixes, there are several new features including automatic casing and better configurable access to the Mac standard HFS system of CD-ROMs. There's no room to go through all the features again – so take a look at the docs.

## And the rest...

There's SysPic, a fast boot picture viewer; Wordwrap, the program that can change the text wrap on text files; CleanUp can scan for empty folders and remove them – ideal if you are continually installing and removing programs and PCC, a mountlist for automatic mounting of PC drives. There's also a picture submitted by Martin Jones and rendered using Imagine. ∎

■ *Everyday Organiser 2.10*

■ *MIDITracker*

■ *AKCC*

■ *ClockFreq*

■ *HDSleep*

■ *AmiCDFS 2.36*